



Saving Lives Through Danger Assessment

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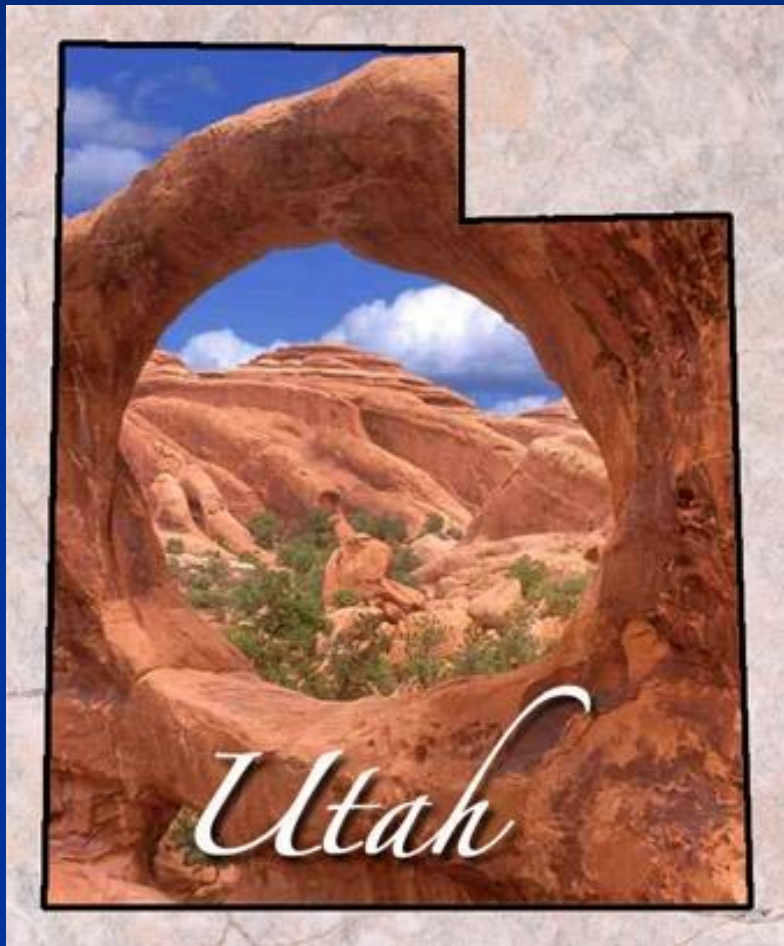
- 3 people died in the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013
- An average of 3.4 women die EVERY DAY from DV crimes in America



- 2,753 died on September 11, 2001
- 17,344 women have died from Domestic Violence crimes since that date in America

(As of August 1, 2015)

Domestic Violence in Utah



- 40% of all homicides are DV homicides
- In 2012, more than 3,100 victims entered shelters to escape DV. (At least twice that many were turned away.)
- In Utah, there are about 175,000 intimate partner-related physical and sexual assaults each year.

Victim Participation

*85 per cent of DV victims
do not participate in prosecution*

Why???

It Doesn't Matter!!!

We need to do our jobs!

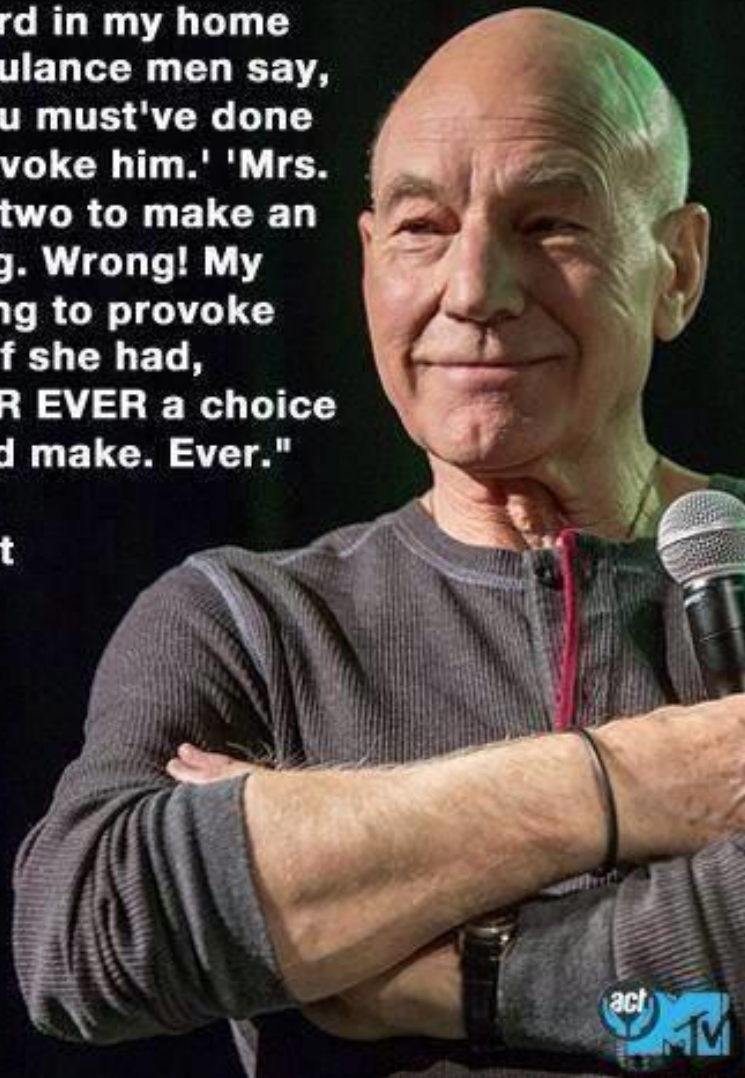


In a 2005 study by Dan Jones and Associates for CCJJ, in Utah the biggest reason cited by victims for not reporting abuse and not leaving violent relationships: FEAR.

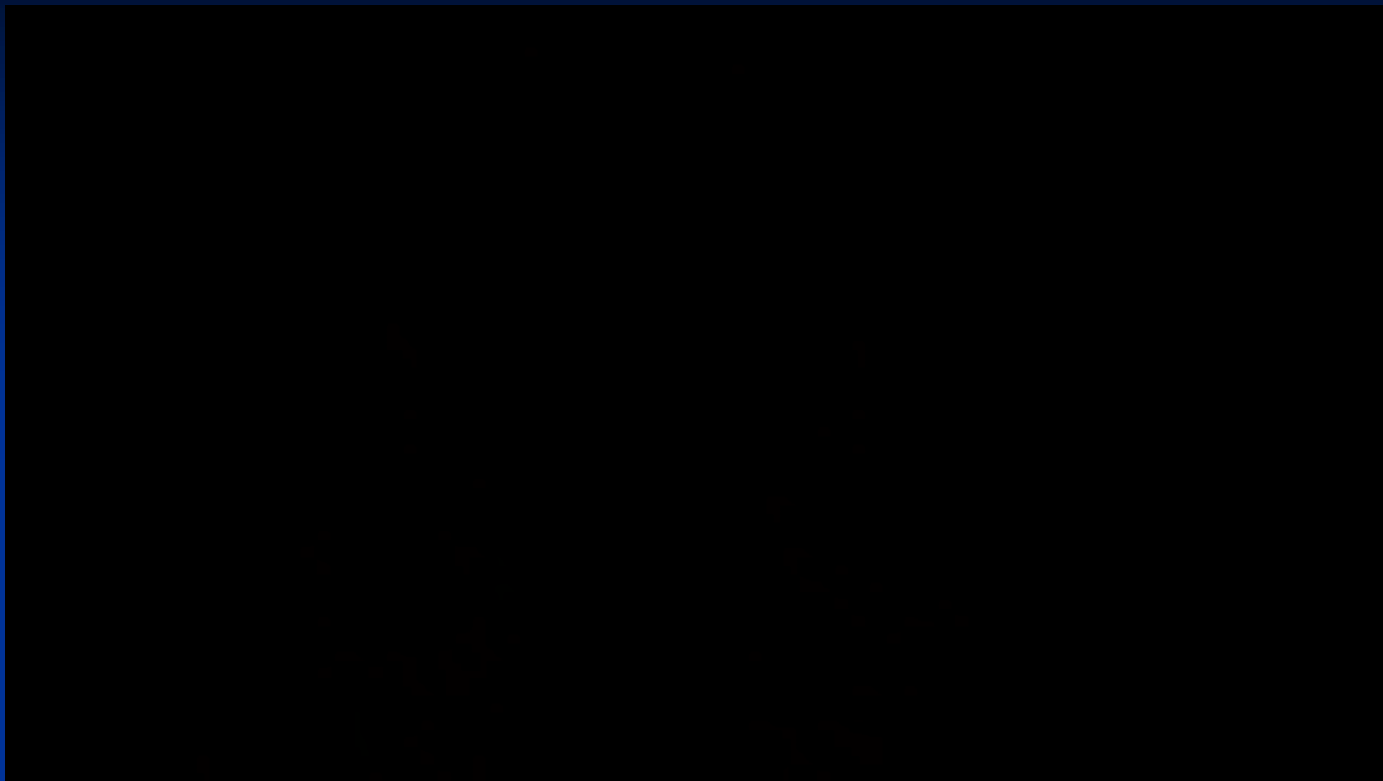


"As a child, I heard in my home doctors and ambulance men say, 'Mrs. Stewart, you must've done something to provoke him.' 'Mrs. Stewart, it takes two to make an argument.' Wrong. Wrong! My mother did nothing to provoke that -- and even if she had, violence is **NEVER EVER** a choice that a man should make. Ever."

-- Patrick Stewart

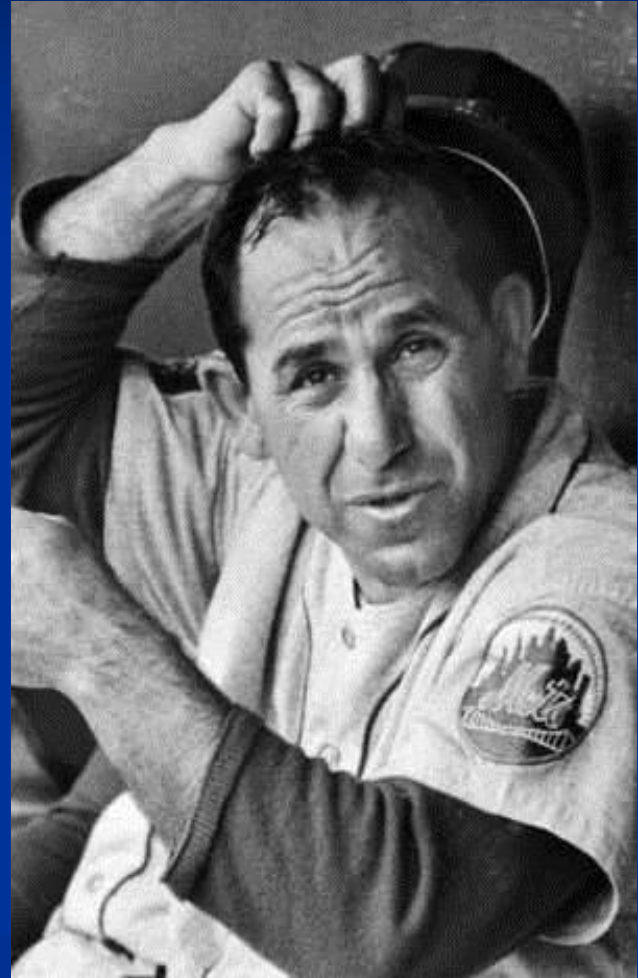






Prediction is very
hard to do, especially
if it is about the
future.

-- Yogi Berra



Why Danger Assessment?

- DV victims often significantly underestimate the danger that they are in
- Only 4 per cent of DV homicide victims nationwide had ever received DV services
- Research consistently shows future assaults are reduced significantly if victim receives DV services (one study says 60 per cent reduction in serious assaults)
- The majority of homicide victims had some previous involvement with law enforcement / EMTs
- **GOAL: CONNECT HIGHEST RISK VICTIMS WITH SERVICES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME**

Why Danger Assessment?

- *Additional benefits of Danger Assessment:*
- Goal is to assist victims in making their own decisions
- Increase individual victim awareness of their own personal risk
- Impress victim that we care
- Increase success of future DV response

Jacquelyn Campbell Research



- Johns Hopkins School of Nursing professor
- Research since 1980 on common risk factors for future lethal intimate partner violence
- Risk Assessment instrument in medical setting beginning in 1985
- 20 questions and protocol – for use in a medical setting

Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) in Maryland

- Designed for LEA first responders
- Since 2005, 100 per cent of Maryland LEA use LAP
- Maryland DV Homicides:
 - 2007 - 3,300 DV homicides
 - 2012 - 2,340 DV homicides
 - 34 per cent reduction in DV homicides



Danger Assessment

LAP is done by law enforcement and first responders if:

- 1) Intimate partner relationship

AND:

- 2) Probable cause assault has occurred, OR
- 2) Repeat LEA calls to parties or to location, OR
- 2) 'Gut Feeling' of officer indicates

Domestic Violence Lethality Screen for First Responders



“Screened IN” Result

- Show victim the assessment and explain results to her
- Make call to DV hotline – NOT on victim’s phone
- Ask victim to speak with crisis worker
- If victim declines, emphasize importance and then ask victim to reconsider
- If victim still declines, follow next steps

“Screened OUT” Result

- Advise victims that DV is dangerous
- Ask victims to look for signs of danger
in her life
- Refer victim to services
- Give victim contact info
- Proceed with criminal case, if any

Maryland Results (So Far)

- When LAP used, 54 per cent screened in
- 59 per cent of victims screened in spoke with hotline resource worker
- 33 per cent of victims screened in sought services
- Average length of time for officers was 12 additional minutes at scene
- Between 2006 and 2008, number of victims who participated in services after LAP who died:
- ZERO.

Prosecution Setting

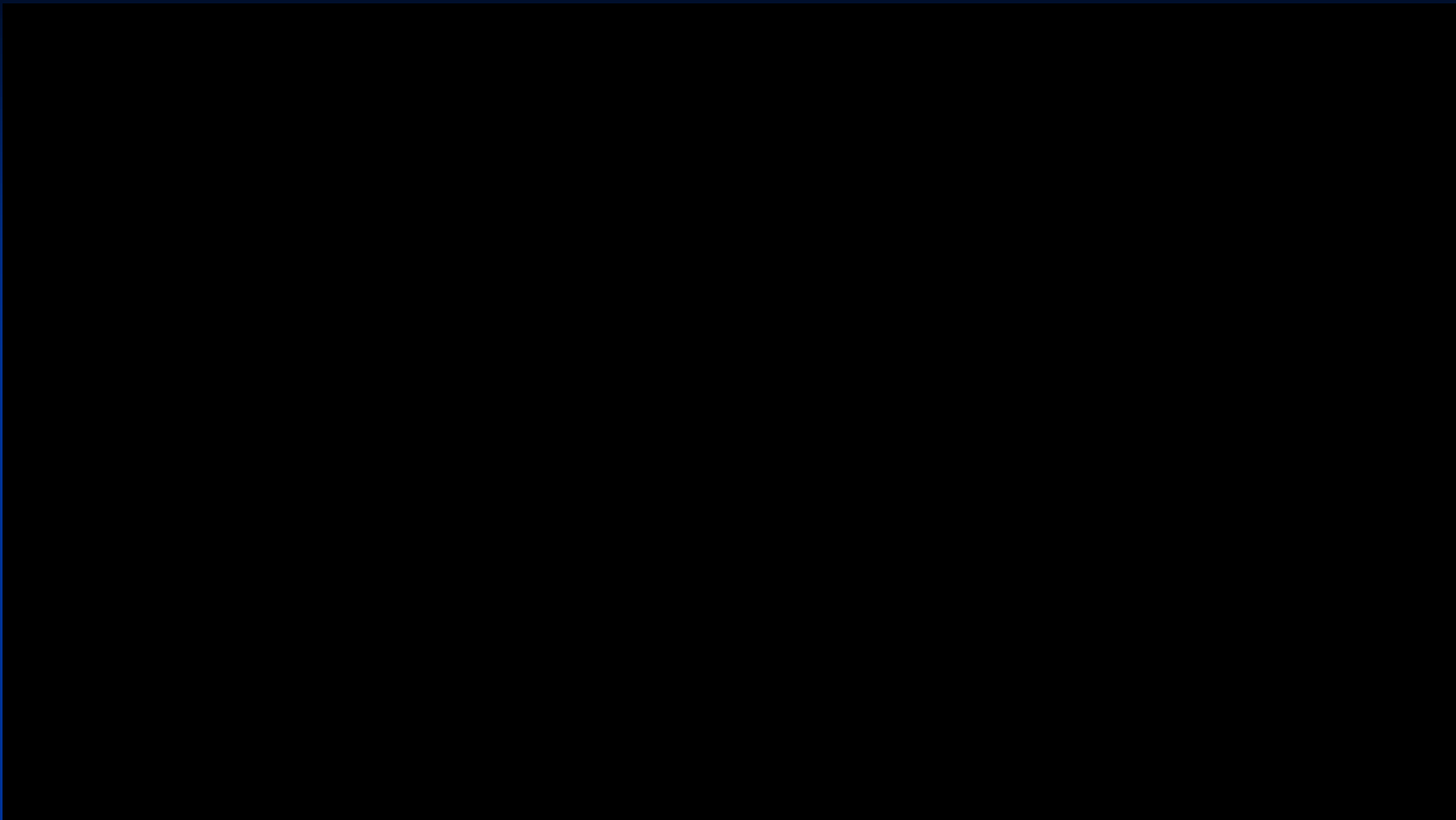
- Assessment useful in prosecution
 - Higher bail and increase in release conditions
 - Additional evidence to use at trial
 - Prioritizing cases
 - Impact at sentencing





■ Ripple Effects of LAP on the system:

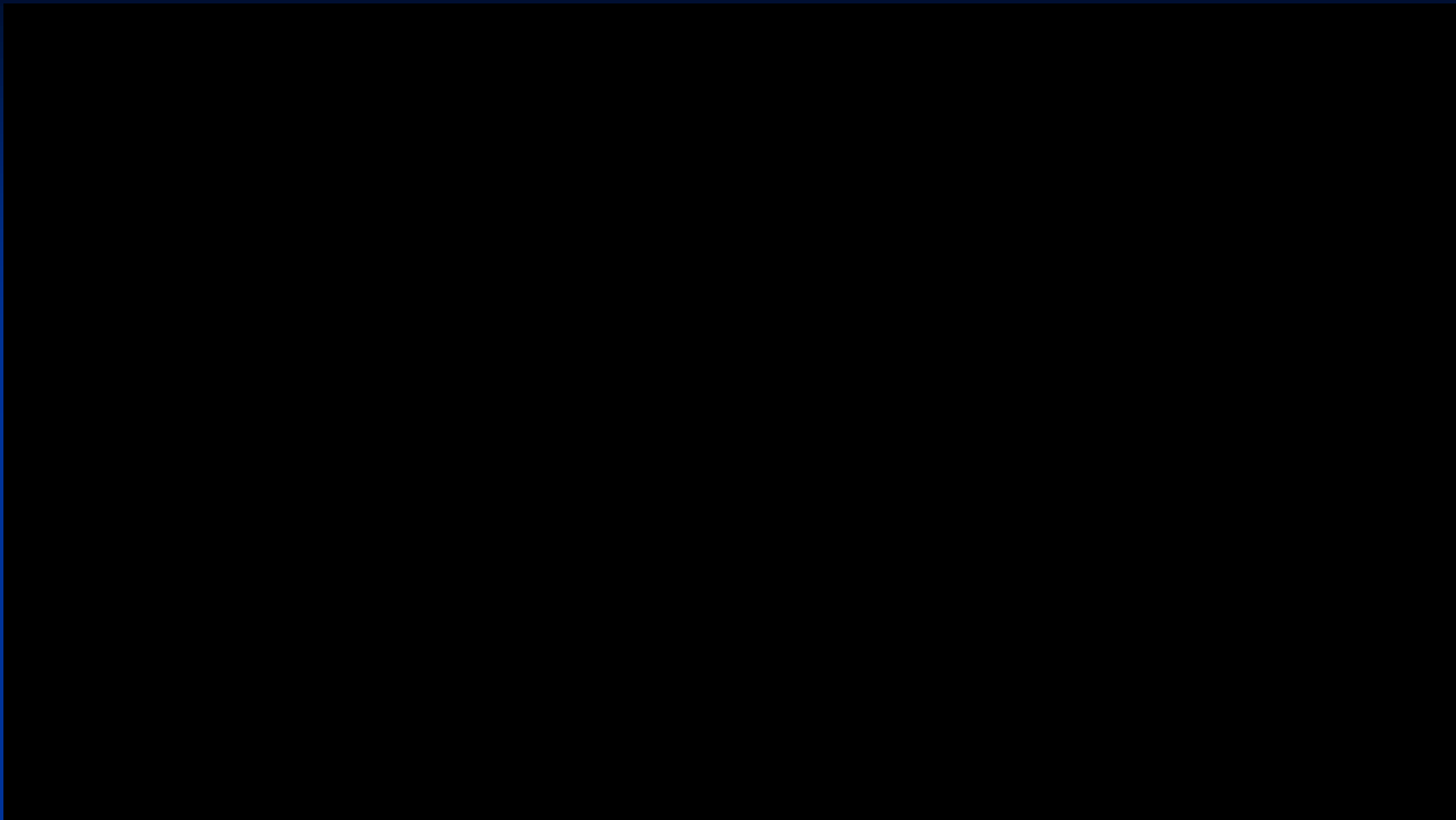
- New medical protocols
- New dispatch protocols
- Increased inter department collaborations
- Increased bail and release conditions
- More protective orders
- Serial batterers identified between agencies



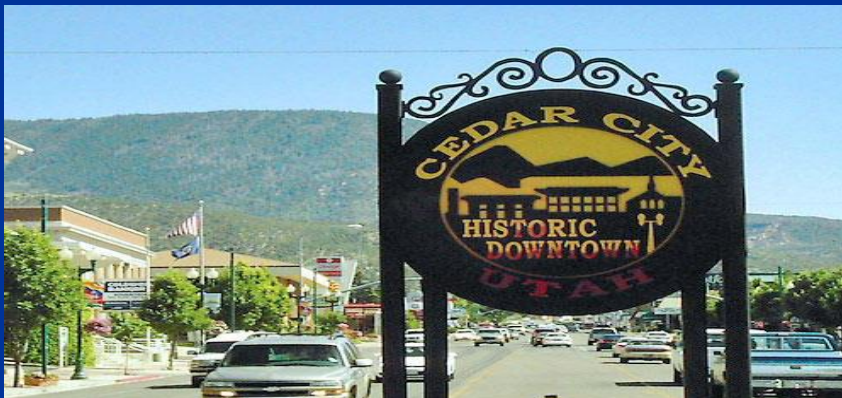
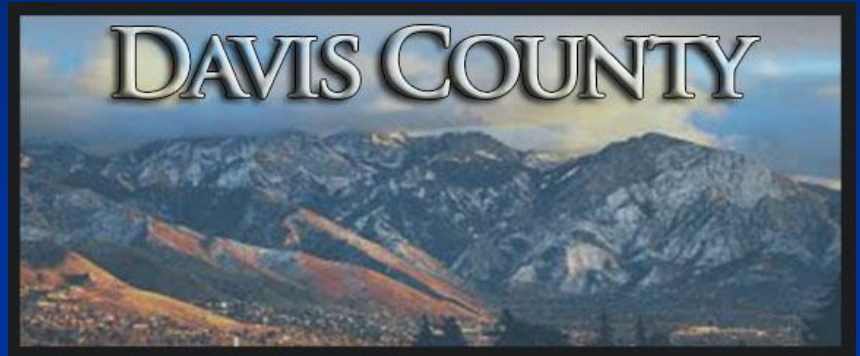
Minnesota Bench Guide (2009)

- **How To Use The Domestic Violence Risk Assessment**
- **Obtain information regarding these factors through all appropriate and available sources**
 - Potential sources include police, victim witness staff, prosecutors, defense attorneys, court administrators, bail evaluators, pre-sentence investigators, probation, custody evaluators, parties and attorneys
- **Communicate to practitioners that you expect that complete and timely information on these factors will be provided to the court**
 - This ensures that risk information is both sought for and provided to the court at each stage of the process and that risk assessment processes are institutionalized
 - Review report forms and practices of others in the legal system to ensure that the risk assessment is as comprehensive as possible
- **Expect consistent and coordinated responses to domestic violence**
 - Communities whose practitioners enforce court orders, work in concert to hold alleged perpetrators accountable and provide support to victims are the most successful in preventing serious injuries and domestic homicides

- **Do not elicit safety or risk information from victims in open court**
 - Safety concerns can affect the victim's ability to provide accurate information in open court
 - Soliciting information from victims in a private setting (by someone other than the judge) improves the accuracy of information and also serves as an opportunity to provide information and resources to the victim
- **Provide victims information on risk assessment factors and the option of consulting with confidential advocates**
 - Information and access to advocates improves victim safety and the quality of victims' risk assessments and, as a result, the court's own risk assessments
- **Note that this list of risk factors is not exclusive**
 - The listed factors are the ones most commonly present when the risk of serious harm or death exists
 - Additional factors exist which assist in prediction of re-assault
 - Victims may face and fear other risks such as homelessness, poverty, criminal charges, loss of children or family supports
- **Remember that the level and type of risk can change over time**
 - The most dangerous time period is the days to months after the alleged perpetrator discovers that the victim
 - might attempt to separate from the alleged perpetrator or to terminate the relationship
 - has disclosed or is attempting to disclose the abuse to others, especially in the legal system



Utah Pilot Areas – Beginning September 1, 2015





WOODS CROSS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

EXCELLENCE THROUGH LEADERSHIP, PRIDE AND DEDICATION



Safe Harbor

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Use of LAP by Utah Courts



Utah AOC Memorandum - July 17, 2015

“Courts may want to consider dangerousness and lethality factors when determining length and type of probation.”

I freed a thousand slaves. I
could have freed a
thousand more if only they
knew they were slaves.

-- Harriet Tubman



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